

SEP 30 2004

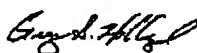
## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/716,739 Confirmation No. 6774  
 Applicant : PANDIAN et al.  
 Filed : November 18, 2003  
 Title : METHODS AND KITS FOR DETECTING ITA IN A BIOLOGICAL  
 SAMPLE  
 TC/A.U. : 1600/1641  
 Examiner : COUNTS, G.W.  
 Docket No. : A-1789 DIV  
 Customer No. : 33197

## CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to  
 Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, to fax number 703-872-9306, on the date  
 indicated below.

Date: September 30, 2004

By:   
 Greg S. Boltrigg

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO APRIL 30, 2004 OFFICE ACTION AND  
 PETITION FOR TWO-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME**

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the April 30, 2004 Office Action issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office regarding the above-identified application. A response to the Office Action was due July 30, 2004. Applicant hereby petitions for a two-month extension of time. A response with a two-month extension of time is due September 30, 2004. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the petition fee for a two-month extension of time (\$420.00) to Deposit Account No. 13-5135. Accordingly, this response is being timely filed. Please amend the subject application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

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Page 7 of 7

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, and that the claims are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, notice of which is respectfully requested. If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicant's undersigned representative invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: September 30, 2004

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